

Review: *Seeds of Hope* by Celia Deane-Drummond

As you would expect in a CAFOD publication, this book begins with stories of real people in real situations. So from the outset the general concept of 'climate change' and its impacts on global ecology are brought down to grassroots level and we learn how these macro-trends affect people who are poor: droughts in the Sahel, floods in Guyana, increasingly unpredictable weather in Cambodia. We are used to CAFOD's campaigning approach: from landmines to poverty, the question is always how to tackle the causes rather than just to offer instant aid. But in this attractively produced and highly readable book the root cause of our environmental dis-ease on the planet is traced right back to the fundamental relationship between the Creator and we earth dwellers, a relationship which has become increasingly out of kilter. Drawing on Scripture, the Church Fathers, a variety of key papal documents and insights from contemporary theologians, Celia Deane-Drummond offers an integrated, theological analysis of the environmental challenges we face. It is this theological, yet accessible, approach which sets *Seeds of Hope* apart from many another on the same topic.

The ten well-structured chapters take us from the personal stories mentioned above through 'the environment and eco-justice', to 'the Sabbath principle', 'deep incarnation', 'creatureliness', and guide us finally into a practical wisdom about making decisions for the common good of humanity.

Perhaps most impressive of all are the three dialogues the book opens up. First of all on the moral climate of the eco-justice question as discussed by Dr Mike Edwards, CAFOD's Climate Change Programme Development Officer, and the author. Secondly, that between Pope John Paul II and Patriarch Bartholomew I from their 2002 meeting in Venice which issued a call for the ecological conversion of hearts. And lastly, that into which each reader is drawn through the stimulating and thought-provoking materials for prayer and discussion produced at the end of every chapter.

Published fittingly in the centenary year of the birth of Dom Helder Câmara, this is a book he would surely endorse for it asks the deep question of 'why' in respect to eco-justice and shows the cost of answering – and the even greater cost of not answering – that question.

Laurentia Johns OSB, Stanbrook Abbey, Yorkshire